



Pan Dorset ASC Strategy: Action Plan from January 2014 **Revised 15.12.14**

Priorities: While all work areas are important, the Pan Dorset ASC Partnership Board has identified the following **priorities** for work in 2015/16:

1. Workstream C **Mapping existing resources; information, advice and guidance**
2. Workstream D **Data Collection: needs analysis, improving ways of collecting information including about spend on ASC services**
3. Workstream E **Transition**
4. Workstream F **Employment and Housing support**

PLEASE NOTE: the Department of Health has been consulting on new statutory guidance around the implementation of the autism Act: when this is published the Pan Dorset ASC Partnership Board will review its implications both for this Implementation plan and for the overall Pan Dorset ASC Strategy.

IN ADDITION there are a number of factors for which the Board does not have responsibility but which are recognised as being of high importance if individuals with ASC are to receive the optimum support: these include

TOTAL COMMUNICATION: the Pan Dorset Total Communication Group works to ensure good practice is extended across all three local authority areas. The link person for the PD ASC PB is Paul St Quintin, who is Chair of the Total Communications Group.

N.B. awareness raising is crucial and needs to be addressed in activities within ALL workstreams

Work stream A: Raising wider public awareness and profile of ASC (see also Work stream G, Training)

Recommendation from National Autism Strategy:

Raising public awareness "...is essential to our long-term vision of a society that accepts and understands adults with autism."(para. 2.34,pg. 31).

What has been done	What needs to be done	Who is in charge	By when?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three events have been held around ASC (specifically Aspergers), one each in 2010, 2011 and 2012 (this one was linked to launching the Pan Dorset ASC Strategy). Autism Wessex and Dorset Adult Aspergers Support (DAAS) both work to raise awareness of user experiences and to suggest ways that they can be improved. • Dorset Mental Health Forum's Recovery Education Centre delivers training on Aspergers, using people with lived experience to co-train. • Training is on offer for professionals (see Workstream 9). • Work on the information sheet for professionals has started and is continuing in conjunction with representatives from DAAS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A small amount of funding has been set aside for some targeted literature: the proposal is to co produce (with self advocates) a "prompt" sheet for professionals. Detailed proposal to be put to the Board in May 2014. • DAAS members have expressed concern at the time it is taking to develop an ASC information sheet for professionals. The plan is to complete this work as soon as possible. • DAAS activities in 2013/14 have included training such as an introduction to "Think Autism" and sessions on Aspergers and mental health, Aspergers and friendship and Aspergers and independence. Meetings are attended by a wide range of interested parties. Notes can be found on the DAAS website at: http://dorsetadultaspergerssupport.org.uk/bmth-meetings-2014 	<p>Elaine Hurl NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Bournemouth Borough Council; Jo O'Connell Borough of Poole; Paul St Quintin Dorset County Council.</p>	<p>31.05.15</p> <p>30.04.15 (tbc)</p>

Work stream B: A “Care Pathway” – identification and early diagnosis, access to services (see also Work stream C, Information advice and guidance).

Recommendation from National Autism Strategy:

“...develop a clear and consistent pathway for diagnosis in every area, (including):

- increasing capacity around diagnosis
- ensuring a diagnosis is recognised as a reason for a community care assessment or reassessment
- providing relevant information to adults with autism and their family or carers *at the point of diagnosis* to help them understand their condition and access local support.”

(Chapter 3 introduction, page 33)

What has been done	What needs to be done	Who is in charge	By when?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Community Adult Aspergers Service (CAAS) has been operating for several years and provides a specialist service to Bournemouth, Poole and east Dorset. In the rest of Dorset, diagnosis has been carried out within generalist mental health or learning disability services. • Approval has now been given by Dorset CCG to provide a specialist service to offer a consistent diagnostic pathway across the county; a service specification has been developed and it is intended that provision be in place from 01.04.2014. • The extended Community Adult Aspergers Service now covers all of Dorset (as of July 2014), offering a specialist diagnostic service for adults. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved care pathway operational. • Produce a simplified chart of the agreed pathway and publish this • DAAS has fed back that there remains a need to establish arrangements for post diagnostic support throughout pan Dorset. Relevant staff need to know about individuals’ rights to a community care assessment (and reassessment). CAAS staff are keeping a record of people they see who need post diagnostic support. • Family carers need to be able to access carers’ assessments and services (implementation of Care Act). 	<p>Elaine Hurll NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Bournemouth Borough Council.</p>	<p>31.03.14 Completed</p> <p>by 30.04.15</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to advise G.Ps of arrangements for referral to CAAS.		Ongoing
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Work stream C: Mapping existing resources; information, advice and guidance

Recommendations from National Autism Strategy:

“Providing relevant information

- information about autism, what it is and how it affects those who have the condition
- information about sources of help for the individual and their family – from telephone help lines to local voluntary groups”

(para.3.26, page 38)

“increasing awareness and understanding of autism”

(para. 1.26, page 20)

What has been done	What needs to be done	Who is in charge	By when?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have produced an information sheet which is on the Dorset CCG Autism webpage http://www.dorsetccg.nhs.uk/partners/pan-dorset-asc-partnership-board.htm • Other organisations link to this page to enable material to be updated without the chance of changes being made in some places not in others. This information spans services and support from statutory, voluntary and charitable organisations. • DAAS runs a website which offers information and contacts for support and guidance: http://www.dorsetadultaspergerssupport.org.uk/ • Information has been collected to inform the main ASC Strategy document; this appears in section 5 in particular. The Pan Dorset ASC Strategy has been approved by all the statutory authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will continue to add information as and when necessary to the CCG website ASC page. The information sheet will be revised and updated. • We will seek to support third sector organisations to develop information, advice and support for people with ASC. DAAS have said they would like to offer training in social skills (based on the N.A.S. “Socialeyes” programme) and some form of employment workshops in 2015/16, they have the training skills necessary but need practical support to run these courses. • The National Autistic Society (NAS) has a network for professionals which we want to encourage those working with clients with ASC to link into. 	<p>For Autism info on CCG website: Allyson Evans Dorset County Council</p> <p>For the carers’ website and carers joint working across Dorset, Poole and Bournemouth: Paul St Quintin Dorset County Council;</p> <p>For third sector activity: Karen Wilmshurst Autism Wessex.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

<p>involved, and launched publicly (see Work stream A).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autism Wessex runs an information helpline and drop in centres. DAAS runs support groups in Dorchester and Bournemouth. • A web based forum for carers supporting people with all types of needs across Dorset CC area has been established; this resource is available to carers of people with ASC and is accessed via the Carers' Hub at http://www.dorsetforyou.com/carers • We have commissioned Autism Wessex to set up a voluntary data base of people with ASC (see Work stream D). This will extend opportunities to consult and share information with individuals on the autistic spectrum. The database been set up and has now been running for over 6 months. 	<p>Information about this has been added to the PD ASC PB web page.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The web based forum for carers has potential to be extended to cover Poole and Bournemouth as well under the "Better Together" developments. Discussions about working together will be taken forward with officers from Poole and Bournemouth and both generic and condition specific carers' organisations; this follows an event for carers and officers from all three authority areas hosted by Dorset Carers Partnership on October 23rd in Wimborne. • The database will be reviewed regularly and a decision will be made as to whether funding should be sought for it to continue. Board members will all seek to promote the database through formal and informal networks and contacts. 	<p>All members of the PD ASC PB</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
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Work stream D: Data Collection: needs analysis, improving ways of collecting information on Pan Dorset spend on ASC services, in local authorities and the NHS

Recommendation from National Autism Strategy:

“we expect each local area to develop its own commissioning plan around services for adults with autism that reflects the output of the JSNA (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment) and all other relevant data around prevalence.” “... local authorities should follow DH guidance which states that the Director of Adult Social Services... should ensure there is a joint commissioner/senior manager who has in his/her portfolio a clear commissioning responsibility for adults with autism” (paras 6.9, 6.10, pages 60, 61).

What has been done	What needs to be done	Who is in charge	By when?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The data for the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment has been refreshed. Data is available for young people moving from children’s to adult services (“transition”); this will be updated as more information becomes available. It would be helpful to look at identifying people moving from adults to older person’s services with a diagnosis of ASC, where they are known to services. Senior officers with responsibility for commissioning for adults with autism have been identified for social care in both Dorset (Paul St Quintin) and Poole (Jo O’Connell), and for Bournemouth and Dorset CCG (Elaine HurlI). The ASC Strategy document was approved by the commissioning organisations during the first half of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The JSNA will be regularly updated to develop an information base, to include Poole and Bournemouth, around people who have ASC. The Pan Dorset ASC Partnership Board will receive regular reports on progress with the ASC voluntary database as it develops (see Work stream C above). We will work to identify people with ASC, and to improve diagnosis rates, but it will be a considerable time before accurate strategic information becomes available. The voluntary database should help with this once it has become well established. The introduction of zero based review needs to be fed into data 	<p>Karen Wilmshurst Autism Wessex (for voluntary database);</p> <p>Arrangements for statutory authority link officer for data work to be agreed (Elaine HurlI will contact Sam Crowe, Public Health)</p> <p>Elaine HurlI NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Bournemouth Borough Council;</p> <p>Jo O’Connell Borough of Poole;</p> <p>Paul St Quintin Dorset County Council</p>	<p>Twice yearly updates to PD ASC PB. Ongoing</p> <p>Outstanding 30.04.15</p>

<p>2012.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial funding for a database (voluntary register) of over 16s with ASC in Pan Dorset has been agreed. Autism Wessex has developed and is hosting the database and coordinating publicity. First reporting on this is due in February 2014. Data on ASC has been added to the area JSNA. This will be refreshed as new information becomes available. Health and social care systems do not currently identify people with ASC, so it is not possible at present to estimate all spending on this group of people. Some areas of spend can be identified, such as the commissioned spend on providers such as CAAS, Autism Wessex and other specialist services. Within the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme, if individuals have an ASC, this is recorded. <p><i>N.B. many people with an ASC supported by health and social care services will not have had a diagnosis.</i></p>	<p>work for ASC</p>		
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Work stream E: Transition

Recommendation from National Autism Strategy

“Ensuring transition planning gives people with autism the right start in their adult life”.

(paras. 4.27-4.32, pp 46 and 47).

What has been done	What needs to be done	Who is in charge	By when?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Transition Strategy for all young people, including those with a diagnosis of ASC, is in place for Dorset, supported by a Transition Monitoring Group which meets quarterly. A Transition protocol for Poole has been produced and approved.• The special schools in Dorset are all now using Person Centred Planning with their students from Year 9.• We are supporting the south west regional N.A.S. transitions group (led by Rachel Pike) to improve the transition experience for young people in the south west. Representatives from the PD ASC PB attend this group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data will be revised in the future as additional information becomes available. Consideration will be given to further research around prevalence / diagnostic rates.• People need to know about the new Education, Health and Care Plans and how they will work, including how they will be introduced in Dorset. The PD ASC PB needs to link up with the group which has been set up to oversee the introduction of these Plans across Dorset and make sure they cover young people with ASC. The PD ASC PB has now had presentations on Transitions work and EHC Plans from Ansbury (delivering Connexions) (May 2014 meeting) and the lead officer from Dorset County Council’s Children’s Services (September 2014 meeting). Details can be seen in	<p>Paul St Quintin Dorset County Council Jo O’Connell Borough of Poole Elaine Hurl NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Bournemouth Borough Council for Bournemouth</p>	<p>Ongoing in conjunction with the introduction of Education, Health and Care plans</p>

	<p>the Board's minutes, available at: http://www.dorsetccg.nhs.uk/partners/documents-for-download.htm</p> <p>The Board will continue to receive updates on how the partner local authorities are going to implement the Children's Act and put in Transitions support and Education, Health and Care plans for individuals from 0-25 years.</p>	<p>Allyson Evans to arrange</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
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Work stream F: Employment and Housing support

Recommendation from National Autism Strategy

“We know that adults with autism are significantly underrepresented in the labour market and we are committed to doing more to help adults with autism into work.”

(introduction to Chapter 5, page 49).

What has been done	What needs to be done	Who is in charge	By when?
<p>Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An information sheet and website page (see Workstream C above) are in place to make people with ASC aware of the support which is available (for example through Jobcentre Plus). • For both topics, workshops were held and actions identified at the Pan Dorset ASC Strategy Launch event in 2012. • A member of staff from a Job Centre now sits on the ASC Partnership Board. • Community Resource Services (formerly Vocational and Day Services) in Dorset CC area have been reconfigured and will be focussing on paid employment opportunities for people with a learning disability and for those on the autistic spectrum • Abilities, (a sub-contractor of The Shaw Trust), deliver the Work Choice programme (for people able to work 16 hours or more per week) in Dorset and Poole; this is provided by a different 	<p>Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Employment Sub Group of the PD ASC PB will be set up to focus on how we can work with support providers to help more adults with ASC get, and keep, a job. • Details of how the sub group might work and what it could cover will be set out in a paper for the February 2014 meeting of the full PD ASC PB. There may be a need to produce information leaflets; the sub group should consider what material around ASC/employment is already available nationally, including the NAS toolkit which is being prepared to help organisations that support people into employment. The sub group will be meeting again in 2015, with a view to working with existing employment support services to achieve better 	<p>Elaine Hurl NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Bournemouth Borough Council</p> <p>Elaine Hurl to write a paper</p>	<p>First meeting of Employment sub group to take place by 01.04.14 Completed</p> <p>For PD ASC PB meeting on 10.02.14 Completed</p>

<p>subcontractor, Prospects, in Bournemouth. There are also services to support people needing work experience/work preparation/under 16 hours a week of work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset County Council Employment Services continues to offer support to individuals with ASC; their business plan is in preparation and will include “Pathways to Employment” based on support tailored to individual needs. • CAAS offers “Introduction to Work” courses, which have led to successful outcomes for individuals with ASC <p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing association staff have been included in those undertaking the training on ASC being offered by the Community Adult Aspergers Service (CAAS). • Poole and Bournemouth local authorities have a responsibility for housing matters; in Dorset the six local district/borough councils undertake this function. <p>People with ASC are able to access all these services, but we need to make sure that support staff have the necessary training to work appropriately with them.</p>	<p>employment support for adults with ASC across Dorset. DAAS members are concerned that more needs to be done to progress the work on improving employment services/opportunities/support. Training of staff in Job Centre Plus and within other employment support providers remains a priority.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAAS will continue to offer their “Introduction to work” courses <p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will set up a Housing Sub Group of the PD ASC PB to link up with representatives of the various housing departments and housing providers across Dorset. • Elaine Hurlll will bring a paper about Housing to the February meeting of the Board. It will include suggestions about linking ASC to the Housing strategies of the three local authorities (all of which are currently being revised). • Two local authorities are developing a mental health housing training programme for staff in housing and MH services; 	<p>Elaine Hurlll</p> <p>Elaine Hurlll to write a paper</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>01.04.14 Completed</p> <p>For PD ASC PB meeting on 10.02.14 Completed</p>
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	<p>this should include ASC. This programme of training will be in place from 01.04.14. It is hoped that this can be developed Pan Dorset.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will collect information from adults with ASC about their housing experiences and needs, and from housing providers about what they do to support these individuals to access and keep suitable housing; this information will help us to know where services can be improved. 	<p>Allyson Evans</p>	<p>31.05.15</p>
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<p>CCG webpage for Autism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAAS continues to deliver ASC training. Dorset Mental Health Forum's Recovery Education Centre delivers training on Aspergers, using people with lived experience to co-train. • Service user and family carer input to development and delivery of two workshops to CMHTs Pan Dorset to promote good practice around community care assessments & care planning for people with ASC. These will be completed by 31.01.14. CAAS and DHUFT have provided trainers and support • Staff training under the Care Act should include ASC awareness and carers' awareness. 	<p>lead working with DAAS members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each authority lead will check that their Learning and Development teams are including ASC in Care Act training. 	<p>Karen Sutton Paul St Quintin Jo O'Connell Elaine Hurl</p>	<p>31.12.14</p> <p>Completed Nov 2014</p> <p>Completed</p>
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